

CLAIMS:

1. A high frequency driver for a gas discharge lamp, which is in series with an inductor and which has a capacitor connected in parallel to it, comprising an oscillator, which has DC input terminals for connecting to a DC source and AC output terminals for connecting to a load comprising the lamp, the inductor and the capacitor, the oscillator oscillating at a first high frequency during ignition of the lamp and the oscillator oscillating at a second high frequency during normal operation of the lamp after its ignition, with the first frequency being higher than the second frequency by a ratio of at least 2,2.
2. The driver according to claim 1, wherein, the ratio is in a range of 2,2 to 7.
3. The driver according to claim 1, wherein, the ratio is about 5.
4. The driver according to claim 1, wherein, the oscillating frequency is frequency modulated with less than 15% of an average of the oscillating frequency.
5. The driver according to claim 4, wherein, the frequency modulation is about 7% of the average of the oscillating frequency.
6. The driver according to claim 4, wherein, the modulating frequency is derived from an AC supply to the DC source.
7. A method for driving a gas discharge lamp, which is in series with an inductor and which has a capacitor connected in parallel to it, by a driver which comprises an oscillator, which has DC input terminals for connecting to a DC source and AC output terminals for connecting to a load comprising the lamp, the inductor and the capacitor, the oscillator oscillating at a first high frequency during ignition of the lamp and the oscillator oscillating at a second high frequency during normal operation of the lamp after its ignition, with the first frequency being higher than the second frequency by a ratio of at least 2,2.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein, the ratio is in a range of 2,2 to 7.
9. The method according to claim 7, wherein, the ratio is about 5.
- 5 10. The method according to claim 7, wherein, the oscillating frequency is frequency modulated with less than 15% of an average of the oscillating frequency.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein, the frequency modulation is about 7% of the average of the oscillating frequency.
- 10 12. The method according to claim 10, wherein, the modulating frequency is derived from an AC supply to the DC source.
- 15 13. A Gas discharge lamp assembly comprising a gas discharge lamp, an inductor which is in series with the lamp, and a capacitor which is in parallel to the lamp, a DC supply circuit and a driver according to one of the claims 1 to 6 which is connected in series between the DC supply circuit and the lamp.
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